

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution device for communications and data technology, ~~having~~ comprising at least one distribution board connection module, with the distribution board connection module having a housing in which externally accessible input and output contacts are arranged for connection of lines, cables or conductors, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distribution device ~~(1)~~ has at least one ~~further~~ connection module ~~(2)~~, with the connection module ~~(2)~~ having at least one SDH/SONET transport interface ~~(6)~~ and outputs for electrical signals, with the outputs of the connection module ~~(2)~~ being connected to the inputs of the distribution board connection module ~~(7)~~, and with the connection module ~~(2)~~ having at least one converter for conversion of SDH/SONET transport signals to E1 signals, and vice versa.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the output contacts of the connection module ~~(2)~~ and the input contacts of the distribution board connection module ~~(7)~~ are in the form of multipole plug connectors ~~(4, 11)~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connection module ~~(2)~~ has an external supply voltage connection ~~(24)~~.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection module (2) has an external interface for programming.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection module (2) has at least two plug connectors (4) as output contacts for at least two distribution board connection modules (7).

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection module (2) and the distribution board connection module (7) have snap-action elements (27, 14) for latching onto round rods (3).

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein the connection module includes a housing (16, 17) of the connection module (2) has having heat sinks.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heat sinks are in the form of cooling ribs or cooling points.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the output contacts of the distribution board connection module (7) are in the form of insulation-displacement terminal contacts or coaxial plug connectors (8).

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that claim 2, further comprising line drivers wherein the line drivers for the converter for the connection module (2) are arranged in the distribution board connection modules (7).

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein voltage for the line drivers is supplied via at least one pole of the multipole plug connector (11).

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of claims 10 or 11~~, characterized in that claim 10, wherein the multipole plug connector (11) and/or the line drivers are/is arranged on a printed circuit board (10).

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to 12~~, characterized in that claim 9, wherein the output contacts of the distribution board connection module (7) are in the form of an insulation-displacement terminal connecting strip (9).

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the insulation-displacement terminal connecting strip (9) is connected to the printed circuit board (40) via fork contacts.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the insulation-displacement terminal connecting strips (9) have associated conductor guidance elements (30).

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conductor guidance element (30) has channels (32-34) at the sides, which lead to the end face (31) of the conductor guidance element (30).

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the channels (32-34) are arranged on both sides (35, 36) of the conductor guidance element (30).

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution device as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein channels (33, 34) are arranged one above the other on one half of the end surface (31) of the conductor guidance element (30), with the upper and lower channels (33, 34) being routed on different sides (35, 36) of the conductor guidance element (30), and the channels (32) in the other half of the end surface (31) being routed on only one side (35), with the channels (32, 34) on the one side (35) being arranged one above the other for both halves of the end surface (31).

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A connection module ~~(2)~~ for a distribution device ~~(1)~~, ~~having comprising~~ a housing ~~(16, 17)~~, an SDH/SONET transport interface ~~(6)~~ and an output for an electrical signal, with a converter for conversion of SDH/SONET transport signals to E1 signals, and vice versa, being arranged between the input and the output within the housing.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the converter is an STM1 board.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in claim 19 ~~or 20~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the output contacts are in the form of at least one multipole plug connector ~~(4)~~.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in ~~one of claims 19 to 21~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 19, wherein the connection module ~~(2)~~ has an external supply voltage connection ~~(24)~~.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in ~~one of claims 19 to 22~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 19, wherein the connection module ~~(2)~~ has an external interface for programming.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in ~~one of claims 19 to 23~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 19, wherein the connection module ~~(2)~~ has at

least two plug connectors (4) as output contacts for at least two distribution board connection modules (7).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in ~~one of claims 19 to 24~~, characterized in that claim 19, wherein the connection module (2) has snap-action elements (27) for latching onto round rods (3).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in ~~one of claims 19 to 25~~, characterized in that claim 19, wherein the housing (16, 17) of the connection module (2) has heat sinks.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The connection module as claimed in claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heat sinks are in the form of cooling ribs or cooling points.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution board connection module for a distribution device for communications and data technology, comprising a housing in which externally accessible input and output contacts are arranged for connection of lines, cables or conductors, with the input contacts being in the form of a multipole plug connector and the output contacts being in the form of insulation-displacement terminal contacts or coaxial plug connectors, with functional elements being arranged electrically between the input and output contacts in the housing, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the functional elements are in the form of line drivers for an STM1 board.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution board connection module as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an external voltage supply for the line drivers can be connected via at least one pin of the multipole plug connector (11).